Good 377

The Daily Paper of the Submarine Branch With the co-operation of the Office of Admiral (Submarines) Capt. Frank Shaw introduces

HOBBIES

The Lesson of Tic-Tac

From W. H. Millier

"WHAT are all those funny men doing, gesticulating and waving their arms so frantically?" asks the young lady of her consort, who is taking her to see her first race

"Oh, they're Tic-tacs."
She probably asks him many more questions, and the chances are that he cannot truthfully answer them all. When people go to the races for the first time they are usually fascinated by the antics of the tic-tacs.

After the first notion has passed that they must be a batch of escaped lunatics, they begin to wonder what it is all about.

The tic-tacs are employed by the bookmakers, and their job is to pass on betting information from one ring to another, to send and accept "laying-off" bets from the smaller rings to the big rings, and generally to convey messages by the oldest means of "telegraph."

As applied to racing you

In fact, quite a good case may be made out for the legitimate formation of the word on the lines of established etymology. Take the word "tic," meaning convulsive motion of facial muscles, and add "tac," derived from tacit, meaning, of course, silent, but expressive, although not expressed by words or sounds. The Latin word "tactus" means to touch, or the sense of touch.

If you feel that it is extremely unlikely the bookmakers and tic-tac men of olden times would have been so correct in coining a word from Latin roots, I have an alternative offer, which is going very cheap.

Your letters are welcome! Write to "Good Morning" c/o Press Division, Admiralty. London, S.W.1



As applied to racing, you may be sure that the tic-tac is sold as racing itself, but as the origin is "lost" in the mists of antiquity, it is fairly back. Until it is certain that easy to conclude that it is older than language, since communicating by signs came before articulate speech.

I suppose most people, if asked how the hyphenated name came about, would at once dismiss it as belonging ing to the rich vocabulary of racing slang.

Some might readily assume that it was coined to express the sound of the clicking tape machine or the telegraph instrument. This simple explanation would be wide of the mark, because tic-tacs were plying their profession long before the tape machine or the electric telegraph were invented!

In fact, quite a good case of tic-tacker is a close corner.

At all events, you will find it easier to determine the etymology of tic-tac than you will to read the cryptic messages of these racecourse signallers, if you are just an ordinary racegoer. The ancient order of tic-tackers is a close confederacy.

In order to guard against outsiders tapping-in, as it were, the code is frequently changed.

It may surprise many a stay-at-home backer, who looks out anxiously on racing days for the running newsboy with the 3.30 winner and prices, to know that until comparatively recent times the speed with which his evening paper came on to the streets with the racing results was due largely to the tic-tac.

boots. I have an alternative fer, which is going very neap.

A word much in the public eye at the moment is tactics.

Any schoolboy can promptly give the meaning of this for the telephone had been in use many years before it was permitted on racecourses. It was not until after the 1914 was that permission was given give the meaning of this for the telephone to be inword as the science, or art, stalled on the racecourse at Aintree, where the Grand National is run.

military forces in the pres- Company's men would have a telephone outside the course Company's men would have a telephone outside the course and read the messages sent by their tic-tac man inside. The signaller would set himself up in the most prominent position, usually on the roof of the grandstand, and the speed with which the signals were sent and received was something to marvel at.

Lest you may remain bewil-

Lest you may remain bewillered at the idea of racecourse companies refusing to permit elephones for the use of news gencies, I had better give the height

It can be given in one word. Greed. It might also be as well to add short-sightedness. The notion was that, if people wanted to bet on horse-racing, they should come to the course and pay the price of admission at the turnstiles.

turnstiles.

The shortsightedness lay in the fact that they failed to realise how many thousands of people gained their first interest in racing long before they had any desire to go to a race meeting, and, having become interested, would take the first available opportunity of spending a day at the races. While it is generally agreed that the people responsible for most of our racecourses are many years behind the times, it must in all fairness be conceded that they are by no means the only people who have harnessed themselves in blinkers.

When the cinematograph

When the cinematograph began to attract the crowds, theatrical syndicates viewed the new attraction with great alarm. They tried various boycotts and prohibitions, but they might just as well have tried to stop the rain from falling.



enough strings to go round for all the string-pulling to get the B.B.C. to put a portion of a play or musical show on the

If a play, comedy or revue threatened to become a direct flop, there was almost stampede to get the B.B.C. to take an excerpt.

When this war is over, we are promised a vastly improved television service, which will be readily available to all who are able to afford a set, and the big demand of the televiewers will be the spectacular sporting events of all kinds.

Will the lessons of the past have been learned sufficiently to avoid unnecessary

hibitions, but they might just as well have tried to stop the saled on the racecourse at Aintree, where the Grand National is run.

That gives you an idea of the sort of thing that the would-be reformers of racing are up against in their off- forts to get better facilities for the racing public.

Despite the fact that there were no telephones, the result it is not so very long ago that they paper offices and in the offices of commission agents all over fear it would keep customers of the country, within a few from handing over their cash as well have tried to stop the sacends of the finish of the race. How was this achieved?

The Exchange Telegraph

In the end it was found that twas found that twas found to be wearing blinkers.

To come a little closer home, a small portion of Fleet Street was found to be wearing blinkers.

To come a little closer home, a small portion of Fleet Street was found to be wearing blinkers when the B.B.C. launched in they said, this will mean a diminished sale of newspapers and we may find ourselves in Carey Street or some other miserable spot. What do we may find ourselves in a clare was tapped out they raised an outcry against they raised an outcry against they bear outcry against they raised an outcry against they bear outcry, within a few from handing over their cash at the box-office.

The result, as we know, was hibitions, but they give might it is not so the other way; and in ext. The result, as we know, was hand to be wearing blinkers.

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15 Newcombes Short odd—But True

Many centuries ago the Greeks and Romans were skilled in the art of ventriloquism.

The travellers' tree, found only in Madagascar, has leaves several feet in length, shaped in such a way as to hold rain water for a long period, which furnishes travellers with a refreshing drink.

Tree-frogs are plentiful in South America, but are found also in parts of European kind is of a greenish colour, and possesses feet of a peculiar formation, with discs exuding a sticky composition, which enables it to cling to trees.

Treachery Abroad

stice crept along the corridor and listened. Somebody was in the hall below, now, somebody who stumbled slightly over a misplaced chair and gasped in alarm at the

Then came the sound of a turning lock, the little click as the gar den door opened, and a swift rush of cool air from without. The door clicked to again, and a faint whis-pering came to the girl's anxious

ears.
"Thank you, Annie, thank you.
It's all right, I suppose?" Watson's harsh, penetrating whisper carried clearly to Anstice's eager ears. "They've swum a lake.

USELESS EUSTACE



'These pills you prescribed or me, Doc! Sure there's no error in the prescription?"

WORDS

1. Put a limb in MOSET and

make a monkey of it.

2. In the following first line of a song, both the words and the letters in them have been shuffled. What is it? Groan

shuffled. What is it? Groan ayd ta deates noo eht.

3. Altering one letter at a time, and making a new word with each alteration, change JAN into DEC and then back again into JAN, without using the same word twice.

4. Find the two hidden Christian names in: The flag was half red, half blue; now altered to green.

Answers to Wangling

Words-No. 322

CrookS. Keep the home fires burn-

DOOR, poor, pour, pout, t, part, tart, tarn, BARN, n, born, boon, boom, doom, port, part, burn, born, boon, bo DOOR. 4. "H"-in-"dust"-an-"i."

story. She went on, repeating almost the whole of the conversation that had taken place in the summer-house after Mor-row's return. She had seen him stealing from the garage across the garden, and had followed him. Annie finished on a note of fear.

Overheard in Court

WIVES IN COURT.

WHEN I overheard my husband boast he would never let a woman dictate to him, I couldn't resist putting him to the test. I told him to go home—and he went!

Like most red - haired people, I'm a bit hot-tempered at times, but it soon dies dlown.

pered at times, but it soon dies down.

My husband is one of those little mem with big ideas which never come off.

Why won't husbands realise that we wives can soon rumble all their little dodges?

My husband is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear—when it suits him.

My husband is a bit musical, and therefore a bit peculiar.

AND HUSBANDS.

AND HUSBANDS.

I'M the most popular man in the house on Fridays—but only on Fridays.

My wife doesn't realise that I only go into publichouses for business reasons.

I never dreamed that marriage could make a man so poor.

I gave up arguing years ago; it gets a man nowhere. There's far too much amateur detective work going on in our house—with me as the supposed villain.

"I know we'll get into trouble, Major Morrow had said that he had Mr. Watson," she whispered. "If been in the hotel. Who then? the master should find out, I'd The next thing Anstice real-

Anstice turned and made for her a own room. The stairs creaked as stumbled in his descent. "Going to spoil everything, the first it was anger which dominated her feelings; anger with Annie, the woman she had trusted. Things were clearen now. Annie, or course, had no betrayed to Mr. Watson the secret of her dealings with Nickel, on Anstice's behalf, over those first-found coins. Then a more serious problem began to take shape. Annie had discussed that evening. How Mr. Lynn must be told all this—and Mr. Lynn might meet unseen out by Ruthdinas Point.

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Mr. Lynn might meet unseen on the sharp metalic clink of hammer upon chisel broke the brooding silence of the cave. Nickel ador, how to counter Annie's treachery and turn the tables upon Watson and Nickel. Yes, Nickel made no reply.

Soon the sharp metalic clink of hammer upon chisel broke the brooding silence of the cave. Nickel had fung a pipe. Well with the day of the counter of the cave with him in the cave that evening? Not Watson, for

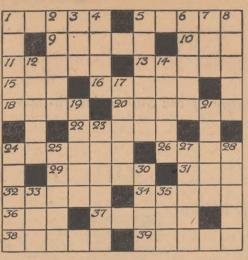
The mellow chimes of the church broke the stillness of the night. The sound gave her an uncanny feeling; as the last a strange silence came over the ears listening for an unknown sound which should break it. Anstice found herself sitting up in bed, every sense alert.

And the sound came, though for the moment she thought to the thought to that gentle creaking to her ears. Instinctively she put out the light and slid from her bed. She was the rotor in an instant; opening it with the utmost care, listening it with the utmost care, listening with every nerve strained, and convinced, against her reason, that some one was moving in the house.

There came an unmistakable creaking from the staircase. An stice crept along the complete and sild from her bed. Who that the morning light was dread as her door in an instant; opening it with the utmost care, listening with every nerve strained, and convinced, against her reason, that some one was moving in the house.

There came an unmistakable creaking from the staircase. An stice crept along the complete and came and the staircase. An stice crept along the complete and came and the staircase. An stice crept along the complete and came and the complete and the complete and came and the staircase. An stice crept along the complete and came and came and the complete and came and came

CROSSWORD CORNER



CLUES ACROSS

Pale,
Boats,
Stagger,
Recline.
Play.
Nut.
Guided,
Stone worker,

16 Stone worker, 18 Always. 20 Unite firmly, 22 Divert, 24 Tyrant, 26 Trunk, 29 Covered with

slabs.
31 Confection.
32 Dwelling-place.
34 Im pursuit of.
36 Shallow vessel.
37 Girl's name.
38 Build.
39 Adopted.
humble attitude.

Though God hath raised me high, yet this I count the glory of my crown: that I have reigned with your loves. Queen Elizabeth, 1601.

for today

11. Gleed is pork flat, sour milk, hot coal, spiced wine, whalebone, cod's roe?
2. Who wrote (a) Alice or the Mysteries, (b) Alice for

Short?
3. Which of the following is an intruder, and why? Lawn Tennis, Cricket, Croquet, Curling, Bowls.
4. Name seven English coins which add up to Ils. 7d.
5. Of what American State is Denver the capital?
6. How many years are there in a decade?

6. How many years are unin a decade?
7. Which of the following are mis-spelt? Massuese, Multiple, Moonstone, Misteltoe, Miocene, Microscope.
8. What river joins the

Microscope.

8. What river joins the Thames at Reading?
9. What animal changes the colour of its skin to match its surroundings?
10. In what game can one get a little slam?
11. What Scottish town gives its name to a cake?
12. How many wild flowers can you name which are called after animals?

Answers to Quiz in No. 376

Earthen pot.
(a) Leon Feuchtwanger,
John Webster.
Jove was a male; others

female.
4. Crown, half-crown, three-

penny piece.
5. Seven minutes each way.
6. Land's End.
7. Incandescent, Ingredient.
8. Nero.

10. Lerwick.
11. William IV.
12. Beefsteak fungus, Eggsand-Bacon, Codlins-and-Cream,



It is difficult to know where the lark comes in. Maybe they are all larks, and pretty muddy at that. But, seriously, they are all students of the Californian Institute of Technology, Passadena. They hold a "Mudeo" every year on their annual Field Day. If you can think of anything dirtier than having your face rubbed in mud you are at liberty to think it.





WHY, THERE HE



BEELZEBUB JONES







BELINDA









POPEYE









RUGGLES









GARTH









JUST JAKE









THREE bishops, twelve eminent physicians and psychiatrists, a Privy Councillor, and 16 other prominent figures with 148 letters after their names, think it's a good idea for you to have your sweetheart "vetted" before you decide to wed. They've backed their belief by becoming officers of the Marriage Guidance Council, which offers to tell you whether your girl friend is the kind of person of whom your mother would approve.

offers to tell you whether your girl friend is the kind of person of whom your mother would approve.

Girls can check up on their boy friends, too—though they're usually more reticent about asking for intimate advice than the boys.

Personally, I think these well-meaning folk might direct their energies through more essential channels. Granting that marriage is the backbone of our civilisation, I think it impertinent of these busybodies to turn over stones and watch humans crawl about like insects underneath. I think if I picked myself a wife I would most definitely not consult any committee. Surely prospective mothers-in-law are difficult enough to cope with.

But Mrs. Evens, business secretary to the council, regards this interference in the private lives of young people as a good thing.

"Requests for information concerning fiancees are treated in the strictest confidence," she told me. "In some cases we send the people concerned to Harley Street psychiatrists, who help the council by charging reduced fees.

"We get many young officers here with inquiries," said Mrs. Evens. "They are charged according to their means."

The Bishop of London and Lord Horder are co-presidents of the council.



AT a London County Council institu-tion the other night I was surprised to find only a score of us seeking a "casual" bed.

Tramps have been absorbed into war industry so effectively that the nightly average is less than thirty. Before the war the LCC. dealt with up to seven hundred casuals in winter and half that number in summer.

Pie to serie

"Inject cricket with the Commando spirit. Make cricket dynamic."
So urged Arthur Gilligan, famous former captain of Sussex, speaking recently at the annual meeting of the Sussex club at Brighton. "I think that many of us have been bored to tears by the slow play which drives the crowd to distraction," he said. "We don't want people playing 20-runs-an-hour cricket, but when I captained Sussex long years ago I always tried to impress on the team that cricket was a game to be played with action all the time.

"Let us get cricket going again—it is one of the finest antidotes for domestic and all other troubles."

Well said, sir—by gad!

Austria 75 Miles

A MATEY little pub. I found in Hertfordshire was the "George and Dragon" at Buntingford.

In the saloon bar of this 16th century inn is a stage coach time-table, dated 1879. The appended notice states that the fare to Cambridge and return was 24s. 6d. It is almost the same to-day.

Throughout, the inn is oak panelled, and from each room there are two or three steps leading to tiny landings and half-spiral staircases.

leading to tiny landings and half-spiral staircases.

In the stables at the rear of the inn are the remains of two stage coaches, the shafts of which are used for clothes-line props.

The kitchen has a flag stone floor, is less than seven feet high, and has eight hooks fixed in the ceiling. The landlord does not know what the hooks were used for, but he has been advised that it would be necessary to pull all the rear of the house down to have them removed.

I recommend this for honeymooners.

Mint to aid

LATEST poster by the Southern Railway, in effective black and yellow, shows a multitude of hands clutching a train light, with the request that passengers can help to maintain the improved lighting by reporting theft to the company's staff.

During recent weeks thousands of bulbs, blinds and light fittings have been stolen, and twenty-six persons have been convicted and fined.

Kon Kichards

Good Morning

The smooth sweep of the land; the gradual curve of the Knoll. Where? Near Brighton Downs — the village of Falmer, Sussex, with its pool, its church, and its stalwart people.



My Momma has laid her pistol down, I'll admit. But that's no reason why I should allow her to

blow my own so-and-so trumpet.



"Wrap me up, Sarge! Cawn't yew see I'm as sick as a dawg? Wot! Never 'eard of a dawg?"



"Come on, come on! Let's get back to our toad-stools. Why look at these humans? At least, that's what they call themselves."





"Ay-llow, Ma." Poor fellow. I'm what is known as Charetay! And all done by flag-selling."



Here's grace! Here's breeding! Here's Inga Andersen! She has been singing for the boys on three fighting fronts.